

EDITORIAL

Members of the Club who attended the meeting at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia in April will never forget the wonderful spirit which prevailed. Maurice Brooks and the host organizations did a masterful job of entertaining and caring for us. We were especially glad to see Harvey I. Fisher, Editor of *The Auk*; William C. Legg, erstwhile Editor of *Field Ornithology*; and John Handlan, whose story-telling was a memorable part of one of the evening gatherings. We were sorry that our two living founders, Lynds Jones and R. M. Strong, could not be there. An unexpected feature was the informal showing of bird drawings by Hugh Land, of Huntington, West Virginia, Donald Malick, of Olean, New York, and Robert Verity Clem, of Hamden, Connecticut. The papers were well worth hearing. For a time Southgate Hoyt's famous pet, Phloeo, stole the show, but for those who preferred wild Pileated Woodpeckers, the West Virginia hills had provided a pair with their nest not far away. Secretary Harold Mayfield's detailed account of the meeting appears in the final pages of this issue.

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We are saddened by news of the death, on May 5, 1950, of H. Boardman Conover, for many years Research Associate of the Chicago Natural History Museum; world authority on game birds; and, with Charles B. Cory and Charles E. Hellmayr, author of the celebrated "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas and the Adjacent Islands." His private collection of game birds numbered nearly 18,000 specimens. Born in Chicago, on January 19, 1892, and educated at Yale, he was interested in birds all his life. Field studies took him to Venezuela in 1920, to Chile and Argentina in 1922, to Hooper Bay, Alaska in 1924, and to East Africa in 1926-27. He published about 38 papers, among them reports on his trips to Venezuela and Alaska. He became a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club in 1944, and a Life Member in 1947. Two of his papers, revisions of certain tinamous, remain to be published. His bird collection was willed to the Chicago Natural History Museum.

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Edward L. Chalif, of Short Hills, New Jersey, announces his intention of donating two hundred dollars a year for ornithological work in Mexico. Mr. Chalif has visited Mexico himself and has become deeply interested in the birds of that country. The Edward L. Chalif Grant for Bird Work in Mexico will be awarded through the Research Committee of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

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Miss Theodora Melone, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who was active as a member of the Club's erstwhile Committee on Aid to European Ornithologists, has given twenty-five dollars to the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Grants Fund. In her letter of transmittal she says: "The extra 25 dollars is for the Fuertes Fund. It is not much, but it may help finance a research project."

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- President Brooks has appointed the following:
- Trustee*, to serve three-year term, 1950-1953. . . . . Aaron Moore Bagg
- Endowment Fund Committee*: Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman. Clinton S. Banks, Robert L. Edwards, Robert T. Gammell.
- Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant Committee*: Charles G. Sibley, Chairman. John T. Emlen, Jr., Ernst Mayr, Frank A. Pitelka, George M. Sutton, Dwain W. Warner.
- Membership Committee*: Seth H. Low, Chairman. Ralph M. Edeburn, Assistant Chairman. Members to be announced later.
- Library Committee*: George J. Wallace, Chairman. H. Lewis Batts, Jr., Mrs. Herbert E. Carnes, A. W. Schorger, A. E. Staebler, Dwain W. Warner.
- Illustrations Committee*: Robert M. Mengel, Chairman. Allan D. Cruickshank, Hal H. Harrison, Karl H. Maslowski, Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., Robert W. Storer.

*Wildlife Conservation Committee:* Robert A. McCabe, Chairman. Members to be announced later.

*Committee on Arrangements for the 1951 meeting in Davenport, Iowa:* Fred T. Hall, Chairman. Members to be announced later.

*Representative on the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union.* . . . . Burt L. Monroe

*Representative on the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.* . . . . S. Charles Kendeigh

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## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

LISTA DE LAS AVES DE VENEZUELA CON SU DISTRIBUCION. Parte 2. Passeriformes. By William H. Phelps and William H. Phelps, Jr. Bulletin of the Venezuelan Society of Natural Sciences, Vol. 12, No. 75, 1950: 6 $\frac{3}{8}$  × 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  in., 427 pp., with large folded map indicating the more than 350 localities mentioned. Paper. Bs. 10. Obtainable from La Sociedad Venezolana de Ciencias Naturales, Avenida Carabobo, Caracas, Venezuela. Send \$3.00 in personal check on a U. S. bank, or an international money order.

Ornithologists interested in the taxonomy, nomenclature and distribution of Venezuelan birds have not, up to the present, had a definitive work for reference. Adolf Ernst's "Catálogo sistemático de las especies de aves que han sido observadas hasta ahora en los Estados Unidos de Venezuela," listing 315 genera and 556 species, and published in 1877, has not been easily obtainable. Such general works as "The Birds of South America," by Brabourne and Chubb, and the Chicago (Field) Museum of Natural History's "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas and the Adjacent Islands," begun in 1918 by Charles B. Cory and continued by Charles E. Hellmayr and Boardman Conover, have of course been useful, but the Venezuelan material has not been readily separable from the rest. Two papers in English, one by Alexander Wetmore (1939), "Observations on the Birds of Northern Venezuela," the other by Herbert Friedmann and Foster D. Smith, Jr. (1950), "A Contribution to the Ornithology of North-eastern Venezuela" (respectively Nos. 3073 and 3268, *Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus.* 87: 173-260 and 100: 411-538), have served to focus attention upon Venezuela, but they have not dealt with the country as a whole. In addition there have been, within the past decade or so, numerous reports in Spanish, among them "Aves de la Ribera Colombiana del Río Negro (Frontera de Colombia y Venezuela)," by Armando Dugand and William H. Phelps (1948. *Caldasia*, 5: 225-245), and "Las Aves de Perija," by William H. Phelps (1944. *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ciencias Naturales*, 56, pp. 265-338). Briefer papers, principally descriptions of new forms or annotated lists dealing with circumscribed areas such as islands off the north coast of Venezuela, have continued to appear both in English and in Spanish. Through this considerable mass of material everyone has come to realize that the Venezuelan Society of Natural Sciences, and especially William H. Phelps and his son, William H. Phelps, Jr., have been diligent in their study of Venezuelan birds.

"Lista de las Aves de Venezuela con su Distribución" is the culmination of all this effort. It represents numerous expeditions to little known parts of the country, preservation and identification of large numbers of specimens, visits to all the major museums of North America, correspondence with European ornithologists, and exhaustive study of the literature. Part 2, now before us, is admirably thoroughgoing and thoughtfully presented. As the title indicates,